

BAY-DELTA PUBLIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE WATERSHED SUBCOMMITTEE

Meeting Summary

Meeting Date/Location: Friday, February 15, 2002
Jones & Stokes
2600 V Street
Sacramento, CA 95818

Meeting Attendees: See Attachment A

Meeting Handouts: See Attachment B

Action Items: See Attachment B

Welcome and Introductions

Robert Meacher and Martha Davis, Watershed Subcommittee Co-chairs, began the meeting with a welcome and round of introductions of all meeting participants (see Attachment A).

CALFED Watershed Program Management Updates

John Lowrie, CALFED Watershed Program (Watershed Program) Manager provided an update on Watershed Program activities. He reported that the status of the Watershed Program budget remains unchanged from his status report last month, both for the current budget and next year's budget.

Proposition 13 Request for Grant Concept Proposals

Mr. Lowrie asked Bill Campbell of the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) to provide an update on the Proposition 13 (Prop 13) Request for Grant Concept Proposals (RGCP). Mr. Campbell explained that the Prop 13 RGCP is soliciting proposals on behalf of 5 programs:

- SWRCB Watershed Protection Program
- SWRCB Nonpoint Source Pollution Control Program
- SWRCB Coastal Nonpoint Source Pollution Control Program
- CALFED Watershed Program
- CALFED Drinking Water Quality Program

The closing date for the Prop 13 RGCP was February 1, 2002. The SWRCB received 573 concept proposals on behalf of the 5 programs. Applicants were able to check multiple boxes to apply for funds. Approximately 92 concept proposals checked the CALFED Watershed Program. Mr. Campbell explained that the number would have been higher if it were not for the strict eligibility requirements. Applicants applying for CALFED Watershed Program and SWRCB Watershed Protection Program funds were required to illustrate that their proposed project would benefit a small community with a financial hardship.

Mr. Campbell stated that the total request of funds from the 573 concept proposals was \$1.25 billion. Of the 92 CALFED Watershed Program concept proposals, \$91 million was requested. Mr. Lowrie added that the number of project matches were very encouraging. The high number represents a significant commitment by local communities.

BDPAC Watershed Subcommittee Priorities Development

Mr. Meacher began a discussion regarding the development of priorities for the Watershed Subcommittee. He explained that the co-chairs of the BDPAC subcommittees met recently to discuss upcoming work and the priorities for each of the subcommittees. The BDPAC chair, Gary Hunt, asked the co-chairs to meet with their respective subcommittees to identify upcoming tasks and priorities and report back to BDPAC. Ms. Davis added that the BDPAC subcommittees will be held more responsible than the previous Bay-Delta Advisory Council (BDAC) work groups. Additionally, the relationship between BDPAC and its subcommittees will be more direct and have a tighter line of communication. Ms. Davis reported that Mr. Hunt has asked all BDPAC subcommittees to identify the priorities and report back at the next BDPAC meeting.

Eugenia Laychak (BDPAC Coordinator) added that Mr. Hunt wants to be clear on the priorities for each subcommittee. BDPAC is then responsible for providing advice and recommendations to CALFED on an annual basis. Therefore, this is a very important exercise for each subcommittee.

Ms. Davis then reviewed some of the achievements of the Watershed Program over the past year. Most notably, the Watershed Program implemented a proposal solicitation process whereby it funded 54 projects totaling more than \$18 million. Last year's proposal solicitation was focused on funding 3 types of watershed management activities:

- building local capacity,
- developing watershed assessments, and
- implementing watershed restoration actions.

Mr. Lowrie stated that the proposal solicitation for 2002 is focused on the same 3 types of watershed management activities. A meeting participant commented that this year's proposal solicitation package appeared to be much more focused on implementation than on planning activities. Mr. Lowrie stated that although the Watershed Program wished to provide financial assistance for both planning and implementation, the Program's funds had restrictions that

limited on pursuit of that goal. Mr. Lowrie added that funding watershed planning activities will remain a goal for next year, but again will depend on the nature and limitations set by the funding source.

Regarding last year's goals, Ms. Davis stated that she had reviewed the CALFED Annual Report and found it difficult to tease out the contribution the Watershed Program's activities made during 2001. She suggested that the Watershed Program needs to illustrate better how a watershed approach can benefit the CALFED Bay-Delta Program as a whole—specifically, how grants funded through the Watershed Program contribute to CALFED's goals.

Ms. Davis then began a discussion of Watershed Program goals and priorities for 2002. She suggested that this year's goals should include:

- implement a grant program,
- develop performance measures and monitoring protocols, and
- conduct public outreach.

Mr. Lowrie added that another key component for 2002 is to pursue a plan to provide technical assistance for watershed activities to local communities.

Ms. Davis then asked the meeting participants if there are any additional goals that should be added to the above 4 {3? Or is one missing above?} priorities for 2002. It was recommended that implementation of the Watershed Program Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) be added to the list. Another meeting participant suggested that integration with other programs and identifying linkages should also be a priority. It was recommended that support for the newly formed Environmental Justice Subcommittee should be a focus of integrating with other programs.

Mr. Lowrie added that another activity that is missing, although tied to implementation of the MOU, is the development of an annual Implementation Plan. The MOU states that the first Implementation Plan is due in August 2002. The Watershed Program's Interagency Watershed Advisory Team (IWAT) will largely be responsible for development of the Plan; however, input and feedback from the Watershed Subcommittee will be important.

After priorities for 2002 were discussed, Ms. Davis prompted a discussion to identify performance measures for each of the priorities. She stated that both the priorities and the performance measures will be reported to BDPAC.

Some meeting participants expressed confusion about identifying performance measures. Ms. Davis offered an example to help clarify. She explained that an example performance measure for conducting public outreach would be to hold 3–4 “on-the-road” meetings to talk about the Watershed Program and discuss projects funded by the Watershed Program. This performance measure would also include a report to BDPAC at the end of the year.

Ms. Davis' example then prompted a discussion to clarify the difference between a *performance measure* and an *indicator of success, milestone, or task*. A meeting participant commented that it is not always easy to quantify or to measure success of watershed management activities. Some

watershed management practices are more social activities than implementation actions. Other meeting attendees expressed confusion as to whether or not they were supposed to identify performance measures for the Watershed Program or for the Watershed Subcommittee. Another meeting participant suggested that a subgroup be formed to flesh out some of these questions.

Ms. Davis stated that she thought it would be best to table the performance measures discussion until the April Watershed Subcommittee meeting. She explained that between now and then, Watershed Program staff will revisit some of the prior work products that address Watershed Program goals and performance measures. Furthermore, Ms. Davis stated that she would like to better frame the discussion so it can be more focused and provide a better baseline for the meeting participants.

BPDAC Watershed Subcommittee March Road Show

Ms. Davis and Conner Everts (Southern California Watershed Alliance) provided an update on the BDPAC Watershed Subcommittee March Road Show. The meeting is scheduled for Friday, March 15, 2002, in Los Angeles. A draft meeting agenda was distributed to the meeting participants. Mr. Everts explained that the draft agenda includes presentations from a panel that received Watershed Program funds last year as well as a number of southern California watershed groups. The panels will discuss watershed management activities in southern California.

Discussion

Mr. Everts was asked what region of southern California the meeting would focus on. He replied that outreach was being conducted from Santa Barbara to the border through networking, emails, and mail distribution.

A meeting attendee observed that the agenda was very full and expressed concern about fitting everything in within the time frame. Ms. Davis replied that she will work closely with the speakers to ensure that they stay within the allotted time and focus their presentations on the contribution their projects make to CALFED's goals.

A meeting participant inquired whether performance measures would be discussed at the L.A. meeting. Mr. Lowrie responded that the objective of the road show meetings is to reach out to those who are not familiar with CALFED or the Watershed Program. It is hoped that new interest will be sparked and new people will become active with the Watershed Subcommittee. For the most part Watershed Program business will continue to be conducted at Sacramento meetings.

Future Road Show Meetings

Ms. Davis explained that the Watershed Program intends to conduct 2 or 3 additional road show meetings during 2002. It was proposed that the next road show meeting (following L.A.) be held in the Cache Creek watershed in May and that another road show be held in the Feather River watershed in September.

Ms. Davis asked the meeting participants to comment on the proposed locations. No objections were made; however, it was suggested that an additional road show be held. Recommended locations included the San Joaquin River Basin, northern Sacramento River watershed, and the north coast area.

Watershed Legislation

Assembly Bill 2117- Wayne

Renee Hoyos (California Resources Agency) provided an update on Assembly Bill 2117 (AB2117). She reported that the legislation calls for the development of a report describing recommendations to the State regarding watershed management. A joint task force and an interagency team were convened to develop the report. The report was delivered to the Governor's office for his approval on February 11, 2002, and will then go on to the Legislature. Ms. Hoyos distributed a fact sheet of the report to the meeting attendees. The fact sheet describes 7 recommendations that are included in the report:

- Adopt statewide watershed policy.
- Develop a strategic plan.
- Improve technical assistance and communication.
- Clarify link to regulations.
- Leverage multiple funding sources and provide for long-term funding.
- Ensure watershed partnerships have access to science and monitoring.
- Ensure public accountability.

Discussion

A meeting participant expressed concern that the recommendations in the report were developed by a small group for the state as a whole; feedback should have been obtained from a wide audience for the report. Ms. Hoyos replied that the recommendations stemmed from the findings based on 10 interviews that were conducted with watershed groups throughout the state.

Ms. Hoyos was asked what it means to have the Governor approve the report. She replied that once the Governor approves the report it will be officially endorsed by the Governor's office.

Other meeting participants were concerned with some of the language used in the fact sheet. Ms. Hoyos explained that the full report provides a complete description of each recommendation.

The discussion regarding AB 2117 concluded with compliments to Ms. Hoyos and Ken Coulter (SWRCB) for their hard work on the report.

Proposition 40

Mr. Coulter and Mr. Lowrie reported on Proposition 40 (Prop 40). Mr. Coulter explained that Prop 40 would be on the March ballot and includes \$300 million for watershed restoration. Mr. Lowrie added that of the \$300 million, \$20 million is earmarked for the Watershed Program.

Water Bond

Mr. Meacher reported that there are plans to develop a Water Bond for the November ballot to complement the recent Park Bond. Parties working on a Water Bond include Senator Costa, The Nature Conservancy, and the Regional Council for Rural Counties.

Watershed Education Day at the Legislature

Allen Harthorn and Laurel Ames (California Watershed Network) provided information regarding a “Watershed Education Day at the Legislature.” The event is planned for Thursday, April 11. The event will provide participants opportunities to connect with local legislators and inform them about activities taking place in their watersheds. Ms. Davis recommended that participants talk to their legislators about why watershed management is important to their districts, especially in problem solving, and explain how watershed management can help solve water quality problems and other challenges facing their communities. They should link their watersheds to California issues as well.

California Biodiversity Council

Ms. Hoyos reported that the next California Biodiversity Council (CBC) meeting will take place in Yuma, Arizona, on March 13 and 14, 2002. The meeting will focus on Colorado River issues. The CBC Watershed Work Group will not be meeting in conjunction with this CBC meeting.

Watershed Updates

Mr. Coulter reported that a Request for Proposals for 319(h) funds will be available in approximately early to mid-March. There is \$5 million available for watershed restoration projects.

Josh Bradt (Urban Creeks Council) reported that the Environmental Justice Water Coalition held an environmental justice workshop in Los Angeles on January 25, 2002. The workshop was entitled “Connecting Downstream and Headwater Communities: Building a Statewide Vision for Water and Environmental Justice” and was well attended. Mr. Bradt also announced that the Environmental Justice Water Coalition now has a website—www.ejwatercoalition.org.

Mr. Bradt also announced that the first meeting of the BDPAC Environmental Justice meeting is planned for Friday, February 22, 2002.

Sam Ziegler (U.S. Environmental Protection Agency [USEPA]) provided an update on USEPA’s 2003 Watershed Initiative. He explained that the 2003 proposed budget for the Initiative is \$20 million. These funds would provide support for demonstration watersheds throughout the country, which have yet to be identified.

Kristin Cooper Carter (California State University, Chico) reported that the draft watershed funding database is available at http://watershed.ecst.csuchico.edu/new_spin/spinmain.asp. The

name of the website will change once the database is finalized. Ms. Hoyos added that once the contract with California State University, Chico, expires, it is likely that the database will be housed with the Governor's Office of Innovation.

Dennis Bowker (Sacramento River Watershed Program/CALFED) reported that the first Board of Directors for the Sacramento River Watershed Program will be announced at the Program's annual meeting.

Fraser Sime (California Department of Water Resources) reported that Suzanne Gibbs is stepping down as watershed coordinator for the Big Chico Watershed Alliance. Good wishes were expressed to Ms. Gibbs.

Martha Turner (Salmonid Restoration Federation) reported that the next Salmonid Restoration Conference will take place February 28, 2002.

Next Meeting

Mr. Meacher announced that the next meeting will be held in Los Angeles on Friday, March 15, 2002.

The meeting was adjourned.

Attachment A

MEETING PARTICIPANTS

Name	Affiliation
Ames, Laurel	Sierra Nevada Alliance/California Watershed Network
Bowker, Dennis	CALFED Watershed Program/Sacramento River Watershed Program
Bradt, Josh	Urban Creeks Council
Brown, Karen	California Department of Water Resources
Buzzard, Diane	U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
Campbell, Bill	State Water Resources Control Board
Clayburgh, Joan	Sierra Nevada Alliance
Coon, Kristin	Calaveras County Water District
Cooper Carter, Kristin	California State University, Chico
Coulter, Ken	State Water Resources Control Board
Crooks, Bill	City of Sacramento
Cunningham, Bill	Natural Resources Conservation Service
Dalton, Randi	Friends of Ten Mile and Cahto Creeks
Davis, Martha	Inland Empire Utilities Agency/BDPAC
del Rosario, Rosalie	National Marine Fisheries Service
Everts, Conner	Southern California Watershed Alliance
Fox, Dennis	Kelliv Lake Coordinated Resource Management Program
Fry, Vicki	Bookman Edmonston
Gallegos, Tony	Lake County Public Works
Harthorn, Allen	California Watershed Network
Haze, Steve	Millerton Area Watershed Coalition
Henly, Russ	California Department of Forestry
Howard, Vance	Yolo County Resource Conservation District
Hoyos, Renee	California Resources Agency
Jacobs, Selene	Jones & Stokes
Knecht, Mary Lee	Jones & Stokes
Laychak, Eugenia	CALFED
Leininger, Chris	Ducks Unlimited
Lorenzato, Stefan	California Department of Water Resources
Lowrie, John	CALFED
Matson, Tanya	Jones & Stokes
Meacher, Robert	Regional Council for Rural Counties/BDPAC
Ohlson, John	Yolo County Democratic Center Committee
Ploss, Lowell	San Joaquin River Group
Roberts, Ken	Yuba River Conservancy
Schmidt, Diane	Allied Consulting
Seits, Mark	Tetra Tech, Inc.
Sime, Fraser	California Department of Water Resources
Smith, Abigail	Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board
Smith, Kimberly	California Resource Conservation Districts

Thomson, John
Thrup, Gordon
Turner, Martha
Wagenet, Don
Ward, Kevin
Walsh Cody, Casey
White, Kaylea

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
S.S. Papadopoulos & Associates
Salmonid Restoration Federation
Navigant Consulting Inc.
University of California, Davis
California Department of Food and Agriculture
S.S. Papadopoulos & Associates

Attachment B

MEETING MATERIALS

- Meeting Agenda
 - Draft Meeting Agenda for March 18, 2002, BDPAC Watershed Subcommittee Meeting
 - January 18, 2002, BDPAC Watershed Subcommittee Meeting Summary
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ACTION ITEMS

Continue discussion regarding Watershed Subcommittee priorities and performance measures at the April 19, 2002, Watershed Subcommittee meeting